

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claim 9 and amend claims 1, 10-12, 15 and 31 as follows:

- 1                   1. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:  
2                   an IP-enabled communication network;  
3                   at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the  
4                   remote site comprising:
  - 5                   (a) a plurality of subscribers,
  - 6                   (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
  - 7                   (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
8                   switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a  
9                   plurality of voice communication lines and at least one  
10                  signaling line carrying signaling data, and
  - 11                  (d) a gateway receiving the plurality of voice  
12                  communication lines and the at least one signaling line  
13                  for each multi-line hunt group, the gateway interfacing  
14                  each multi-line hunt group and the communication  
15                  network; and
- 16                   at least one service site connected to the communication network, the  
17                  service site comprising:
  - 18                  (e) a service platform providing voice services;
  - 19                  (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
  - 20                  (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
21                  switch, and
  - 22                  (h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and  
23                  the communication network.
- 1                   2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2                  service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

1                   3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2 service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

1                   4. (canceled)

1                   5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2 communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

1                   6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2 communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1                   7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2 communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

1                   8. (canceled)

1                   9. (canceled)

1                   10. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1  
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and  
3 the signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by  
4 the communication network.

1                   11. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1  
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format  
3 acceptable by the communication network and passes the converted line signaling  
4 protocols to at least one service site.

1                   12. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1  
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one  
3 gateway at a different site to exchange the signaling data.

1                   13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each  
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication  
3 network bandwidth.

1                   14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each  
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the  
3 communication network.

1                   15. (currently amended) A communication system for transmitting  
2 audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:  
3                   a locality of subscriber units;  
4                   a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic  
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each  
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least  
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data associated with calls through the plurality  
8 of voice communication lines; and

9                   a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the  
10 communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over  
11 each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a  
12 data format acceptable by the communication network.

1                   16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

1                   17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

1                   18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

1                   19. (canceled)

1                   20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site  
3 to exchange signaling data.

1                   21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication  
3 network bandwidth.

1                   22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the  
3 communication network.

1                   23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2 communication network comprising:

3                   receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;  
4                   determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines  
5 and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received  
6 information and associated signaling;

7                   formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and  
8 signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and  
9                   sending the formatted information over the communication network.

1                   24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2 communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:

3                   receiving the formatted information over the communication network;  
4                   reformatting the converted information back into the original format  
5                   for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at  
6                   least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and  
7                   sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

1                 25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent  
3                   to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

1                 26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent  
3                   to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

1                 27. (canceled)

1                 28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over IP (VoIP).

1                 29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1                 30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over ATM (VoATM).

1                 31. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:  
2                   an IP-enabled communication network;

3                         at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the  
4     remote site comprising:

- 5                             (a)    a plurality of subscribers,  
6                             (b)    a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,  
7                             (c)    at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
8                             switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a  
9                             plurality of voice communication lines and at least one  
10                             signaling line carrying signaling data, and  
11                             (d)    at least one wide area network access device  
12                             interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the  
13                             communication network; and

14                         at least one service site connected to the communication network, the  
15     service site comprising:

- 16                             (e)    a service platform providing voice services;  
17                             (f)    a switch connected to the service platform;  
18                             (g)    at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
19                             switch, and  
20                             (h)    at least one wide area network access device  
21                             interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the  
22                             communication network.

1                         32. (new) A communication system for transmitting audible  
2     messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

- 3                             a locality of subscriber units;  
4                             a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic  
5     outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each  
6     multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least  
7     one signaling line carrying signaling data; and  
8                             at least one wide area network access device in communication with  
9     each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network

- 10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line
- 11 and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
- 12 the communication network.